

Animal Control Commission

Public Board Meeting

03/12/09 @ 7:00pm

Pre-Meeting Activity: Swearing in of Board Members

- Cindy Murray; City Clerk swore in all Board Members; Laura Bartrom, Jackie Becker, Kathy Moore, Tom Shutes and CJ Jones.
- Budget Questions referred to Comptroller
- Signup sheet passed around; Board Members and Public
- Board Members introduced themselves

Meeting called to order by Laura Bartrom at 7:00pm

Present: Laura Bartrom; Kathy Moore, Tom Shutes, CJ Jones, Jackie Becker, Chris Weaver, Michelle Warren, Ed Chosnek, and Sue Scott.

Election of Officers

Laura Bartrom as Chair, Motion by Kathy Moore, 2nd by CJ Jones. Accepted / Approved.

Kathy Moore as Co-Chair, Motion by Jackie Becker, 2nd by Tom Shutes. Accepted / Approved.

Jackie Becker as Secretary, Motion by Laura Bartrom, 2nd by Kathy Moore. Approved / Accepted.

Meeting Dates

Announced. Motion by Tom Shutes, 2nd by Kathy Moore. Approved / Accepted.

Public Meetings will be 3/12/09, 6/11/09, 9/10/09 and 11/12/09

Introduction of Mission Statement

Motion by CJ Jones, 2nd by Jackie Becker. Approved / Accepted.

Animal Control Report

Services began 01/01/07 to present

Representatives from Animal Control; Lt Chris Weaver, Supervisor Randy Hale, and Animal Control Officer Monica Alcorn.

Lt. Weaver advised that to report complaints / concerns to call 765-807-1200

Lt. Weaver gave a report that for 1/1/09 to 3/10/09 there have been 1,140 calls for service regarding animals

Explanation of how the numbers are accrued, could be slightly skewed, as the same call may be re-activated several times, but counted as new each time.

Report for 2008:

7,331 calls for service;

182 Citations issued

268 Written Warnings

Nuisance complaints were the majority; with 62 being Cruelty / Care related, and 48 being registration issues in regards to citations / warnings.

2009 to date 5 nuisance citations / warnings; 6 pet registration citation / warnings, and 9 cruelty / care citation / warnings.

There is no breakdown “yet” as to return calls / repeat offenders.

Public was asked if they had any questions in regards to this report so far...

George Molnar (West Lafayette) was acknowledged for having a question, but it was found to not be in regards to the ACO report and was referred to the Public Forum at a later time in the meeting.

Laura Bartrom and Ed Chosnek (City Attorney) gave an explanation of the adoption of an Animal Control Commission (Article IX Animal Control Commission 10.01.090) and it was read to the public by Laura Bartrom.

Almost Home Humane Society Report by CJ Jones

- 2,063 stray and/or seized animals since 1/1/09
- 1,096 cats; 944 dogs, and 23 “other” (Other could be rabbit, reptile, ferret, etc)
- 2008: 617 Cats, 677 dogs, and 15 “other”, 11 cats were brought in by police, and 44 dogs by police (after ACO hours)
- Monica Alcorn asked if there were any details as to “outcome” for these animals...there is nothing to date for specific numbers.

Public Forum / Questions

- Janet Buche (County) asked if a citizen finds an animal and wants to keep it, should they call in or report finding the animal...CJ Jones advised it is not required, but on occasion owners do call in to report a lost animal, and they keep a record, and can refer the citizen that the animal was reported lost and can be reunited with the owner. Buche also asked if we were going to have sub-committee's, and the answer was to be determined on an as needed basis. Buche also commended Lafayette for having the Commission.
- George Molnar (West Lafayette) wanted to know if statistics and reports were available to the public; advises statistics and reports are available as long as they are not still under investigation or involved in court proceedings.
Randy Hale advises that we (Lafayette) are seeing more dumped / abandoned animals and several are not being claimed.
CJ Jones advised that for 2008 approximately 33% of dogs were reunited / returned to owner which is right in line with National statistics.
Molnar asked about the Commissions budget; no information on this at this time
Molnar wants to know if he can get a copy of the contract between AHHS and the City of Lafayette and their “Normal” regulations. Also wanted to know under whose jurisdiction we fall; determined on a case by case basis.
- Merrick Steinmetz (Lafayette) asked if there were going to be any changes in the laws or ordinances in regards to animal. The Board can only make recommendations and/or suggestions and forward them to the City Council. We have no control to make the changes or new ordinances on our own.

- Joyce Welch (Lafayette) Inquired as to the “owner surrender” policy adopted by AHHS, and was advised that policy and procedures of AHHS is not for this Commission / Forum as they are a separate entity. CJ Jones and Michelle Warren did comment a bit and then invited her to come into AHHS for further questions.
- Teresa Beeler (County) asked about the AHHS yearly report; again advised that this is not the forum; and referred to AHHS for that information.
Beeler asked about the number of cats that have been reported as abandoned at Bridgeway Apartments and what the plan is for those animals. Michelle Warren addressed this question briefly, and advised that there is no “established” plan in place at this time.

Jackie Becker interjected and advised that questions in regards to AHHS are not for this Board or Forum and will not be answered.

Randy Hale did advise that the cats from Bridgeway are filtering out into the neighborhoods surrounding the vacant property and are being trapped and turned over to the shelter, other’s have found other food sources.

- Tara Nelson (Lafayette / Southaven Neighborhood Committee) Suggested that the number of pets allowed to be owned be lifted based on quality of care. Jackie Becker inquired as to how we, as a board or the Animal Control Officers are suppose to monitor and determine who and why they should deserve more animals?
Nelson also suggested we lift the registration fee and make registering free, which she believes would increase the number of animals that would be registered as required by the ordinance. Nelson also suggested that the registration be made available on-line, not just to be printed out, but to be submitted electronically. Nelson was advised that she should put together her suggestions / proposal on paper and submit for review by the Board.
- Janet Buche (County) requested a clarification, more specific laws or ordinance in regards to fostering versus hoarding / collecting of animals. The Board agreed to look into this, and reminded the citizens that Animal Control is a call/complaint driven department, and unless a complaint is filed, we may not be able to determine if someone is hoarding or collecting, therefore making it somewhat difficult to enforce, as not everyone will apply to “foster” animals.

No further questions or comments noted from the public / citizens.

Motion to Adjourn by Laura Bartrom, so moved by Jackie Becker. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

For verbatim minutes to this meeting, go to the City of Lafayette Website and click on Animal Control Commission. Minutes submitted by Jackie Becker, Secretary Animal Control Commission. 3/13/09